

The “EYE”

EYE ON THE SKIES!!!!



It is Spring and time to keep an eye on the skies!!! We are entering tornado and severe thunderstorm season. We wanted to give you some tips as to what to do when severe weather strikes and what you need to be looking for when the conditions are right.

TORNADOES

A **Tornado Watch** indicates that conditions are right for a tornado to develop and the sky should be watched.

A **Tornado Warning** indicates that a tornado has been sighted or has been indicated on radar. Warnings will give the location of the tornado and the area immediately affected by the warning.

A **Thunderstorm Watch** indicates that conditions are right for a thunderstorm to develop and persons should pay close attention to their area weather.

A **Thunderstorm Warning** indicates that a thunderstorm has been sighted or has been indicated in the area via radar. Warnings will give the location of the tornado and the area immediately affected by the warning.

Tornadoes develop during severe thunderstorms. While not all thunderstorms create tornadoes, the potential is there. **During violent weather, keep tuned to a local television or radio station for severe/emergency weather reports.**

Preparing for a Tornado

- ♦ Have a safe place designated within your home. A basement or cellar away from windows is best.
- ♦ If no basement or cellar is near, get under solid furniture and cover yourself with mattresses from the bed.
- ♦ Plan tornado drills with your family.
- ♦ Know the location of the shelter where you work or at school.
- ♦ Plan to evacuate your manufactured (mobile) home.
- ♦ Make an inventory and photograph your furnishings and possessions.

If a Tornado Warning is issued.....

- ♦ Go to previously designated shelter areas!
- ♦ Leave your mobile home or vehicle and take shelter in a substantial structure or lie flat in the nearest ditch or culvert and cover your head with your hands.
- ♦ If you are driving, STOP, get out of your car and go to a nearby building for safety. If no building is near, DO NOT TRY TO OUTFIGHT THE STORM!! Get out of your car, lie flat in the nearest depression such as a ditch or culvert. Protect your head and stay low to the ground.



HOME REPAIR SALES AND SCAMS

That time of year has come again.....time for home repair and sales scams!!! As the temperature warms, so does the desire of con artists to cheat you out of your hard earned money! As you start to do your spring clean up and repair of your property, there are some things that you should know to avoid being scammed by those persons passing themselves off as “repair specialists” when our guard is down. It is not uncommon for people to want to engage the services of companies that promise the “best deal”, “quickest work”, “guaranteed work”, and a myriad of other “Specials” that only their company offers.. However, a little detective work on your part may save you from loosing your hard-earned money on a scam that costs consumers thousands of dollars each year.

The scam is simple. The “traveling repair companies” enter the area at the time of year when persons are looking to do home repair projects or immediately after a natural disaster. The go door to door, often introducing themselves as “licensed repair specialists” and explain that they have left over materials from a previous job and ask if you would like them to fix or repair your roof, driveway, windows, etc. They tell you that they can do the repairs at a “reduced cost” as they are “between jobs”. The “deal” is often only a verbal agreement and no contract is provided. If they do present a “contract”, it is often vague and open-ended with no completion date, no specific company name and no quoted price. They often do not complete the job and almost always ask for cash up front before starting the job. Sales scams are similar in that they promise a product that you must “order” and will receive later; or they are selling items out of the back of an unmarked pickup or vehicle.

Here are some tips to prevent you from becoming a victim!

- ✓ Ask for a City Peddler’s Permit (ANY Business selling things door to door needs one!)
- ✓ (SEE COPY OF A PERMIT BELOW - It will have a water mark of the city seal on it.)
- ✓ All Persons selling for a specific company need their own permit with their NAME ON IT!
- ✓ Always demand a written contract for a job and READ IT!
- ✓ Check to see if the “company” has a local address (NOT A Post Office box) and
- ✓ contact the Better Business Bureau (BBB) for a referral.
- ✓ If they are acting suspicious, contact the Police Department at 441-6000.

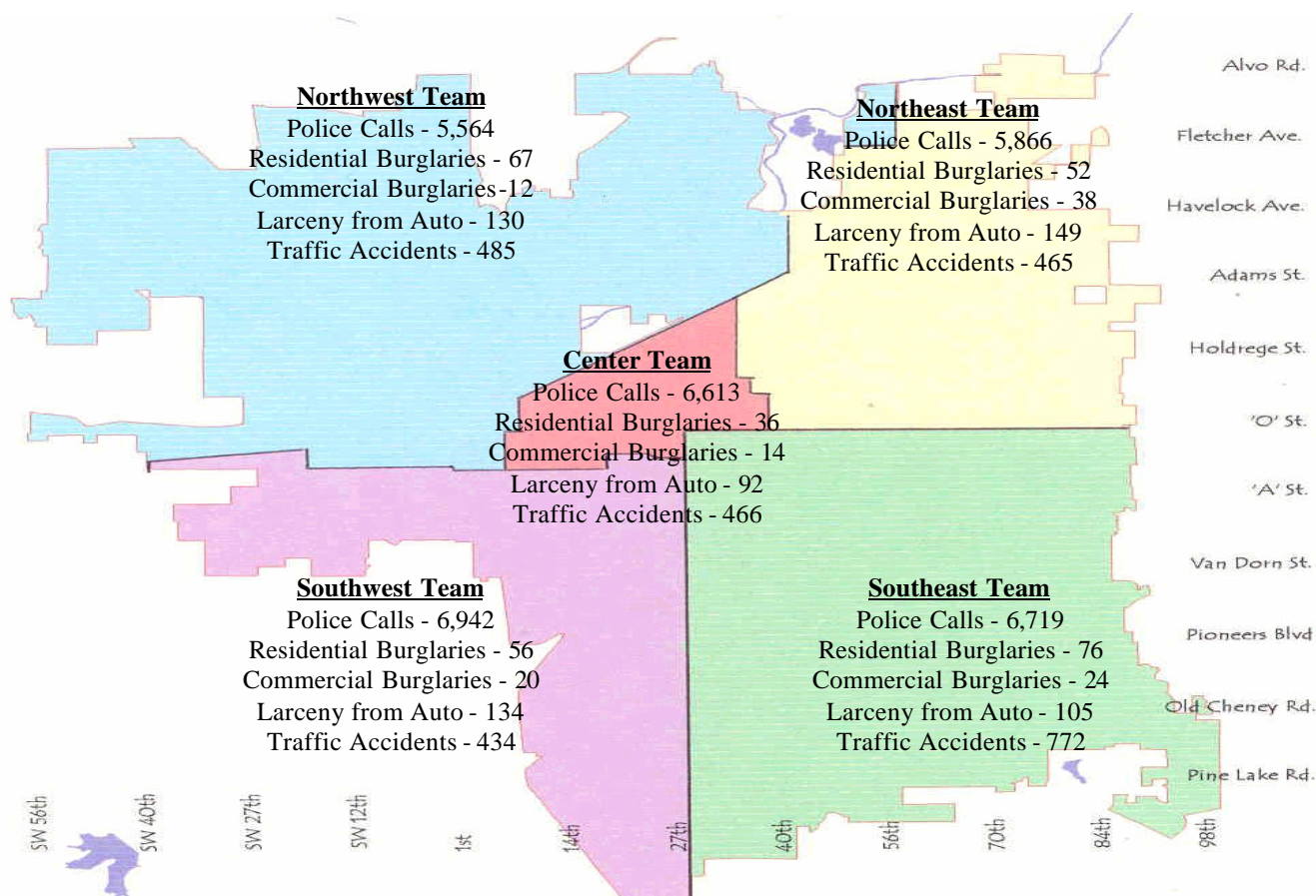


** Sample*

CITY OF LINCOLN NEBRASKA		DEPARTMENT OF LICENSES AND PERMITS		03/27/2007	
NONTRANSFERABLE					
Permit #: L-1816	Type of License/Permit: PEDDLER	Expiration Date: 03/27/2008			
Licensee: PUBLIC, JOHN Q. 1234 ANYWHERE DR. LINCOLN, NE, 68508	Establishment: WINDOWS & DOORS INC. 5678 NOWHERE DR LINCOLN, NE, 68516				
Conditions: HOURS OF SALES: 8 A.M. TO 8 P.M. PRODUCT/SERVICE: INSTALLATION OF WINDOWS & DOORS.			Permit Fee:	\$25.00	
			Occupation Tax:	\$0.00	
			License Fee:	\$0.00	
			Total:	\$25.00	
PUBLIC, JOHN Q. 1234 ANYWHERE DR LINCOLN, NE, 68508	Receipt #: 2007-0263				
	Date Paid: 03/27/2007				
	Amount Paid: \$25.00				
	Check #				

** Please note: Expiration date is 1 year from date of issue/paid.*

SUMMARY OF REPORTED CRIMES between January 1st, 2007 and March 31st, 2007



STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Through March of 2007 there have been 32,431 police calls for service across the city. This is 4.2% more calls for service than in the same time frame in 2006. The total number of residential burglaries for the city so far is 287, a 5.9% increase from the previous year. Larcenies from auto reports are up 22.9% compared to this same time period last year. As of the end of March 2007, 655 incidents of larceny from auto have been reported.

Through the end of March 2007, there have been 108 commercial burglaries reported. Compared to the same time period in 2006, that gives us a 4.9% increase in business burglaries. During the beginning months of 2007, we have seen an increase in school burglaries and weapons violations. The Lincoln Police Department urges all citizens to call and report anything suspicious.

Garage Burglaries-Not just someone else's problem!

During the summer and fall of 2006, garage burglaries rose sharply. The homeowners would leave their house and not shut the garage door because they were just "going out for a minute" or forgot. A thief would enter and then remove tools, bikes, vehicles and items from vehicles.

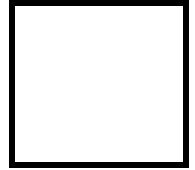
Some simple tips to prevent this are:

- ♦ **ALWAYS SHUT YOUR GARAGE—EVEN IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE GONE "A MINUTE".**
- ♦ **LOCK** connecting doors to your houses. The little bit of time it takes to unlock the door is worth the chance of defeating a burglar!
- ♦ **CHECK AGAIN** to see if your garage door shuts. (Doors with garage door openers may not always shut completely or reopen). All of these tips may keep you from becoming a victim!

The "EYE"

Lincoln Police Department
Crime Prevention Unit
575 South 10th St.
Lincoln, NE 68508

Return Service Requested



Being a Good Neighbor with your Pet



Are you a good neighbor? Is your dog welcome in your neighborhood? You can help yourself, your neighbor, and your pet be happy, safe, and welcome if you just pay attention to some details!

- ♦ **Barking Dogs:** Owners are required to control their dog's barking. If your dog barks or howls in a manner that annoys or disturbs any neighborhood person or persons for more than 15 minutes, you may receive a citation for owning a nuisance animal.
- ♦ **Walking:** Owners are required by city law to use a leash, 6 feet in length or less, when walking a dog, except at designated dog runs.
- ♦ **Care:** All pets must have access to shade (other than a dog house) at all times during warm weather. All pets must have clean, fresh, water available at all times and secured in a manner that prevents spilling.
- ♦ **Motor vehicles/trailers:** It is illegal to confine an animal in a car/truck/trailer when it places them in dangerous conditions that may cause suffering, injury or death.
- ♦ **Cats:** No more than 5 neutered or spayed cats may be owned without a permit.
- ♦ **Dogs:** No more than 3 dogs, 6 months or older, may be owned without a permit.

****Information provided by Officer Kris Johnson, Lincoln Animal Control.****